JOSEPH M. FREEDMAN
COUNSELLOR AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
LYCEUM THEATRE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Mrs. J. M. Freedman
Pharmacist,
Bellevue Hospital, O. P. D.
26th St. & 1st Ave.,
New York City, N. Y.

PHONES { MAIN 558
MEMPHIS 557

JOSEPH M. FREEDMAN
COUNSELLOR AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
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January 24, 1919.

My own precious Wifie:-

Just received your real old fashioned letter and honey, let me tell you, you should have been a novelist, and not a pharmacist. Your composition, your rhetoric, your grammar and syntax were as nearly perfect as could be and besides being welcome your letter read as a good book. Honey, I sure do wish I could get letters like that as often as you could write them.

So now you are at the hospital! Believe me, sweetheart, I am going to try my hardest to get you out of there and bring you here. You may have all the conveniences, but still it's not home and I know that you feel that way, too. You can't tell that old hog of a housekeeper to keep a clean civil tongue in her head, or she will hear from me, regardless of the fact that I am 1400 miles away from her. Don't stand any nonsense from her & tell her so. See to it that you get all you are entitled to, and let them know it, too. Honey, have they started the nightwork? Listen. You stay at my mom's house, or your mother's, any night you feel like and stay over night too, if Mr. Swallow is coming home as usual. Will you precious? I hope you will, as I don't see why others can and you can't.

Sootsie I am trying to be as happy and courageous as possible but there is always the thought that you are not with me. I am always wondering what you are doing, how you are feeling, how everybody is treating you and all such incidents that I should always look after. Sure, things are going much better than I expected, but still, I feel it merely drags along. I shouldn't feel that way, I know, but I can't help it. Even Dr. Sayan says that I am making out 100% better than he thought I would do. I certainly do realize what it means to be away loved ones, but always the thought of you re-kindles a mysterious impetus to do, to create, to master things so that you will be here with me very soon. Yes, honey love, if things keep up as they have been going on, you will be here sooner than I expected. Precious mine, to have you in my arms, to hug you, to kiss you, to love you, to take care of you for the rest of your life, is my only desire. Oh, sweetheart, how I yearn for the time to come. Darling, I don't want you to cry or grieve. Be happy. If, God forbid, I do go broke I'll let you know, for I don't want you to be angry with me. I can't get used to my aunt's cooking anyway, so I eat out in town and have a good meal. Thank God my aunt isn't cooking any meals these days, as she is sick with a severe attack of la grippe, so I don't have to make any excuse. Precious, I will always take good care of your property as well as my own, you needn't worry. I am taking good care of myself & sleeping busy.

I am glad that you made up your uniforms Sunday and so got them out of your way. I certainly would love to see you in them. Honey, I can't forget your beautiful lingerie, especially the pink ones you wore the first night. The first night here you will also wear them, won't you, light of my life? And then you will rest your wonderful head on my shoulder and sleep the whole night through, just as we planned. Honey, when I begin thinking of you so much, I must quit doing what I am about and dream of you for a while and then go about my affairs. Just as

soon as I get a little finer in my practice, I am going to call for you, and you will bring all your pretty things too, won't you, my sweetheart wife?

I am sorry that Edna has had know time to write for your dad, but I will not fail to answer any mail from your dad. A jewish letter from him wouldn't be so bad. Please tell my "Chantzie" to forgive me for not writing to her but as soon as I get an opportunity I'll write.

I certainly am sorry that Barney is having so much trouble. Do you remember how he ~~boast~~ boasted that things would be so easy for him? I can't forget that for I knew he was mainly relying on what friends (?) were going to do for him. Yes, and the way this wonderful sister-in-law's husband was going to give him his last cent, if she had anything to say about it; of course, his assistance would be given after her luxuries were had. I can assure you, I am glad that I was at arm's length from Sadie. Precious, only one who has undergone similar circumstances can realize the pitiable plight Barney is in. Where are the wealthy Weinberg's who were going to let him have the money for 90 days? Where are this "loyal & true friend" who were going through fire for him? Yes, my honey he is first beginning to realize what I found out even since I could remember, that "friend is my shirt, but nearer is my skin!" As you know, there is no love lost between Barney & me, but, having undergone my own period of suffering I readily realize what sort of a predicament he is in and if I could assist him in anyway, I would, not for his sake, as I cannot forget his conduct towards you, nor will I ever forget, but for poor Nellie, who ~~has~~ doubt, is suffering more than he is. Why? Because you can see for yourself when the other one had her supposedly grief, Nellie was her consoler, but now when Nellie should have consolation she gets it, probably, but the real needed consolation, assistance with money, comfort, help, is not forthcoming, and will not, in all probabilities, until actually forced to be given. Nellie no doubt has considerable antagonistic toward her by not making a good deal of noise so to be willing to assist her & her, but you know me, darling, if I can't do what I promise, why promise? If at any time I can help anyone, I'll do it and without telling anyone. After all, I can't help but smile, when I think of all the promises that were made. How well I remember how the empty talk was gulped down and the promises digested, but——— oh, well, no use. When the other one goes into housekeeping, new obstacles will be in the way, and poor Nellie will still continue to suffer. I sincerely pray, sweetheart, I say I sincerely pray and hope that Nellie's life with her husband should be a happy one, as I know she suffered even though she laughed when anyone was around, instead of wasting anybody miserable and disgusted.

I was surprised to hear that Ben Leve went to see Barney about me. He knew where I was, but I suppose it was ~~nearly as a~~ pretext to get in with the Weinberg's, same old Leve. I haven't heard from him recently, but I wrote him a letter yesterday. I was politely admonished not to have him in my office when he comes back for, to use the exact words I received "his reputation is such that you can't afford to be with him." I can't understand what he has done, that so many

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people talk that way about him. (3) Even his best friends tell me he is merely a mere glutter. I heard things about him that I don't care to write you about, but as soon as I see you, I'll tell you.

I was so happy you had such a nice time at Sue's house. So there as often as you can for I know you feel fine after a visit there. I can't blame you, either, as she certainly does keep a wonderful home. So she is prettier than ever? Never as pretty or lovely as you, I can assume you. I am glad she has such a pretty baby, but for the life of me, I can't understand where they got hold of the name "Vincent" always reminds me of catholicism, something that I abhor, but, I suppose she knows what she is doing. My baby's name will be "Jacob" and ~~also~~ named after one of the best men God, in his wisdom, created. What say you, love, don't you think I am right. I certainly would be happy to have them pay you a visit in Memphis and believe me, I'll try and had as pretty a home as they ever laid eye on. You got me again on a swap; well, Mrs. Lazar is very anxious to see you as you must be wonderful from the way I spoke about you. I assured her I couldn't speak highly enough of you. There's your swap, dearest.

You want to tell Joondeph that it only cost $50.00 to get to New York and for him to attempt his funny work with you. I believe the marriage licence is best for him, as his intelligence based more upon a solution of oxygen & hydrogen, is much too little for so honorable a profession as "law". Yes, and you'll show him & his sister the write up I get. I expect it will come about in a little while; I just don't know when.

So Rose consents to your telling everyone about breaking her engagement! I am glad for it really is the best. She certainly is a wonderful kid and I'll do all I can for her. I am so glad she takes such good care of you.

Tootsie, I only hope & pray that Mondeau's dream comes true & I feel like I always felt, if we are blessed with children, the first boy born will be named after Popdear, let him rest in peace. He always thought so much of you and loved you as his own daughter. Isn't that so darling. Lord! How happy I would be if I had a baby! Mrs. Lazar asked me if I like children, I simply told her I loved them, especially if my sweetheart Tots is their mother. I certainly am hoping & praying for it to come. Wouldn't you, honey love?

So Faige is getting married in March? Thank heaven and I wish her lots of luck. Yes, lovie, I know what trousseau

means now.

Sure do wish I could walk out of the frame on your desk & give you a big kiss you & hold you for my arms for the rest of your life. Yes Toots, if things keep up, I'll call for you perhaps in the beginning of April, not later than the beginning of May, at any rate. I figure to have you here by April.

Toots, darling, I hope you understand my writing. Excuse all mistakes & bad writing, won't you, dovie? Take good care of yourself, and don't worry too hard. Let me know how you are feeling, how you are in general health and how your darling foot is.

Will close now with my love & kisses & hugs to the best and dearest wife in all the world.

Ever lovingly your own

Hubby

P.S. Don't worry about me. I'll try & be courageous as you suggest. Take good care of yourself.